

Socorro Amateur Radio Association

SARA News

www.socorroara.org

March 2017

Meetings

The minutes for the February meeting at www.socorroara.org/sara/minutes.

The agenda for the March meeting is located at: www.socorroara.org/sara/agenda/agenda.pdf

The March meeting will be at 1930 hours, Wednesday, 8 March 2017 at the Socorro County EOC on Neel Avenue.

March Special Days

1 Mar, Ash Wednesday
3 Mar, National Anthem Day
4 Mar, Mardi Gras
8 Mar, Daylight Savings Time Begins
14 Mar, National Pi Day (3.14)
15 Mar, Ides of March
17 Mar, St. Patrick's Day
26 Mar, Spinach Day
31 Mar, Bunsen Burner Day

SARA Repeater

SARA supports a VHF repeater located on Socorro Peak immediately west of Socorro. The repeater is "open". The auto patch is currently inoperative.

146.68 (-)
100 or 123 Hz required
123 Hz on output

SARA also supports a UHF D-STAR module 'B' operating at 444.500 MHz + 5.000

Registration instructions are at www.socorroara.org/sara/repeaters/D_STAR_Gateway.pdf

New Mexico QSO Party Sponsored by SARA

April 8, 2017 (8:00am-8:00pm MDT)

See Feb 2017 SARA News
for more information

No Nonsense Tech Study Guide

www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/2014-no-nonsense-tech-study-guide-v20.pdf

SARA Officers

President: Jim Lommen, KC7QY
Vice President: Brad Smith, KD5JNI
Secretary: Bear Albrecht, W5VZB
Treasurer: Anneliese Bowman, AD6UY
Director: Luis Aguilar, WB5JMD
ARES DEC/Dir.: Al Braun, AC5BX
Newsletter Editor: Henry Newton, KC5WYA



The President's Corner

How quickly the shortest month of the year slips by. Already time for another edition of



the SARA Newsletter. Even a short month can be a busy one though. Several events are covered in articles contributed to this edition: TARA meeting where RM Ham Radio

donated a 70cm repeater; installation of the UHF repeater on Workman Center; NM TechFest (more on that in a minute); and establishing a nominating committee for the upcoming SARA officer elections in May. In my spare time I also attended my annual Mining Society meeting in Denver.

TechFest was again held at the Veteran's Memorial Event Center in Albuquerque. Event registration filled to capacity again this year. A full day's worth of informative technical talks was presented along with a poster and demo session. SARA was well represented with Skyler (KD0WHB), Robert (KG5GOL), Jim (KA5SIW), Charlie (NM5CL), and of course, me. Another local connection among the presenters was Paul (NA5N) with his talk about homebrewing (as previewed at the February SARA Meeting). A couple of the presenters came down from RM Ham Colorado this year adding some experience from outside our area. To mention just a couple of the outstanding presentation there was one on Amateur Radio Direction Finding by Jerry Boyd (WB8WFK) of Albuquerque who had participated in the World ADRF Championships in Austria and a timely presentation on DMR basics by Mike Lozano (K0NGA) from the Denver area.

I had a request from Dave Finley (N1IRZ) looking for the loan of a Collins KWM 2 transceiver with speaker and mike for a display at the VLA open house in October. If you have

a lead on one please let Dave know.

With Spring knocking at the doorstep it's also time to start thinking about Field Day. We'll open that discussion at the March SARA meeting next week.

Jim KC7QY

Socorro Chile Harvest Triathlon

Editors Note: Re-running N1RZ article regarding the Chile Harvest Triathlon as they need volunteers

Planning already is underway for the 2017 Socorro Chile Harvest Triathlon. The adult triathlon is scheduled for Saturday, 5 August, with the race starting at 7:30 a.m. The youth triathlon will be the previous day, Friday, 4 August, starting at 6:00 pm.

As they have done for every previous race, the organizers are asking for SARA's help in operating a radio network to support this race. We'll need 7-8 operators on the Saturday and at least two on Friday. Over the years, we have received compliments on the help we provide to the race director and other volunteers during this event. In addition, we often receive thanks from the participants, who appreciate our contribution to making this a safe and fun race for everyone involved.

At this time, the organizers plan to return the bike path to the route used in 2015 and previous years, eliminating the somewhat-hectic three-way intersection seen in 2016. Final details are being worked out, and we'll have a new route map ready for all operators.

Mark your calendars, and plan to be part of this highly-visible public-service activity that shows the participants and the community the value and importance of Amateur Radio.

Dave Finley, N1IRZ

I Am A Member of SARA

Recently I've been thinking about what membership means. SARA's bylaws devote almost a page to the matter of membership. I won't go into detail here, but the general gist of that Article II is that to be a member you must have an interest in amateur radio and pay your dues. Period.



But do members have responsibilities above and beyond this threshold? I think they do. Organizations do not run spontaneously. There is stuff that needs to get done if anything at all is going to be accomplished. Those dues

need to be collected and accounted for. Bills need to be paid. At least one meeting must be held each year and records must be by law kept for entities that are incorporated. Leaders must provide guidance so that goals are made and met. Events don't just happen, but to be successful, careful planning is required. SARA can justifiably look back with pride at our standing in the community and what we have accomplished over the past 2½ decades.

Sure, you have paid your dues and you have an interest in one or more aspects of amateur radio, but I will argue that you have at least one more requirement for membership – **participation**.

Take a look (<http://www.socorroara.org/sara/officers.html>) at the members who have served the association as officers and in other posts over the years. What you will see there is a relatively small percentage of SARA members who have given of their time to the association. More of you need to do so.

The Annual (May) meeting is approaching. A committee has been formed to generate a slate of nominees for the meeting. At this point we can say for certain that not all of the

current officers will continue in the coming year. The newsletter editor has announced that we will require a replacement. In the not to distant future SARA will need a webmaster and a control operator for the '68 machine. If SARA is to continue as a vital organization in the community, these positions **must** be filled. If you are approached by a member of the nominating committee to serve in the coming year, you have already been judged to have what it takes to fill that position. Sure, you have other irons in the fire, but remember that as a member, you have responsibilities above and beyond those set out in the bylaws. Say yes. It is your turn. Heck. Don't wait to be asked. Contact Jim Boswell (KA5SIW@yahoo.com) and tell him you want to serve the association!

KB5YIW, Dave Johnson

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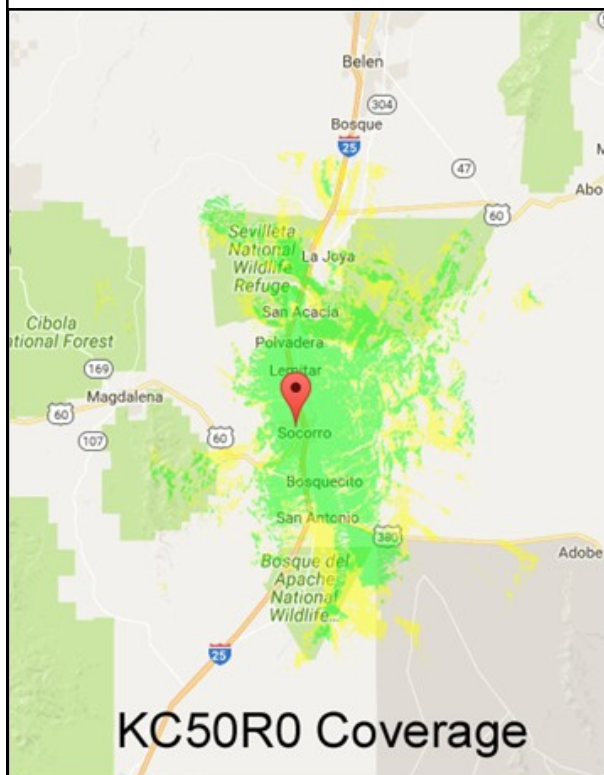


"Mr. Nelson...I'm afraid you will have to leave the air for a while during this procedure."

There's a New Gunslinger in Town

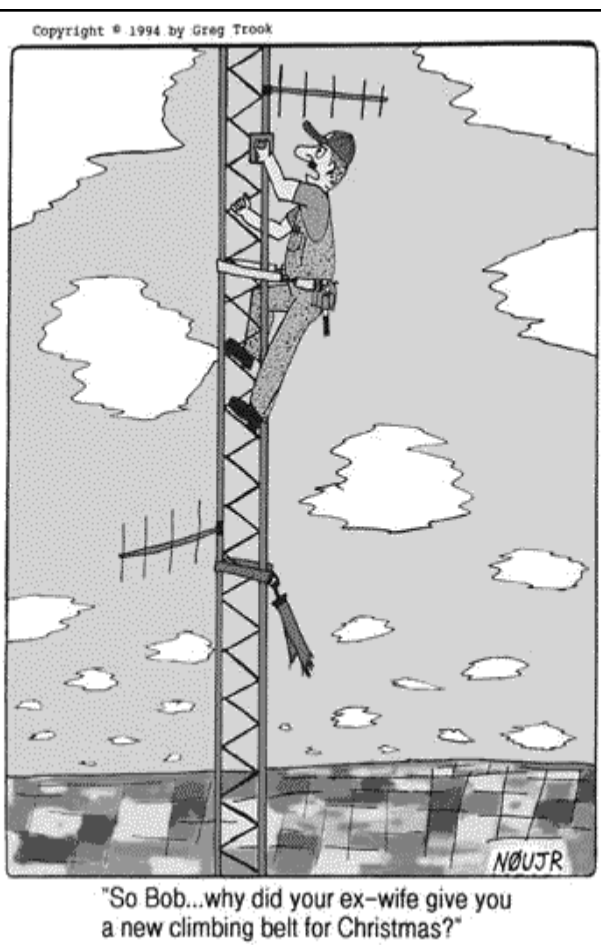
If you have UHF FM capabilities, you have something new to play with – the 442.125+ (100 Hz) KC5ORO repeater. Located in the Langmuir Labs penthouse on the roof of Workman Center on the New Mexico Tech campus, the repeater went on the air on the afternoon of Thursday, February 16th. Installation on that day was accomplished by TARA members Skyler Fennel (KD0WHB) and James Logsted (KF5RRW) with SARA members Jim Lommen (KC7QY) and Dave Johnson (KB5YIW) looking on. Information regarding the repeater is available online at <http://infohost.nmt.edu/~tara/#portfolio>. The location provides coverage throughout the City of Socorro, to the proximal portions of the Quebradas-area east of the Rio Grande, north towards San Acacia and south towards San Antonio. Coverage to the east is limited by Socorro Peak.

While the KC5ORO repeater joins three other analog repeaters in the Socorro-area it is the only UHF repeater and has unique capabilities for the area - internet linking. Allstar



(<https://allstarlink.org/about.html>) linking is currently enabled permitting linking across the U.S. and a number of international locations (<https://allstarlink.org/nodelist.php>). In the future Echolink capabilities are planned for the repeater. The repeater and its internet linking is the result of the efforts by Skyler Fennel, KD0WHB, an electrical engineering student at New Mexico Tech and president of Tech Amateur Radio Association (TARA) and his TARA colleagues. Check it out.

KB5YIW, Dave Johnson



TARA Repeater

A couple of months ago Skyler KD0WHB, an electrical engineering freshman at New Mexico Tech in Socorro and president of Tech Amateur Radio Association (TARA), kindly sought contributions towards the purchase of a service monitor to help teach a number of his classmates and TARA members about RF testing, troubleshooting, and characterization, and use it as a resource for the future projects TARA has planned. His GoFundMe page (www.gofundme.com/rf-test-equipment-for-radio-club) has an excellent video introducing himself, TARA, and their plans. It's great to see the support he has garnered so far.

One of TARA's current projects is the construction and operation of a UHF repeater to rally their members on the air, provide teaching opportunities using their test gear, and attract other New Mexico Tech students to amateur radio.

On Friday evening (2/10/17), members of Rocky Mountain Ham Radio (Alan N5BGC, Dave KB5YIW, Ed KA8JMW, Brian N5ZGT) dropped into TARA's membership meeting in Socorro to present a Yaesu VXR-5000 UHF repeater and duplexer that RMHAM has donated to TARA.

Ed, in his capacity as New Mexico Section Manager, also presented TARA's membership with an ARRL Handbook and General Class study manual.

The ambition these young hams are showing, under Skyler's leadership, is as impressive as it is rare within amateur radio, and it's a treat to have them emerging within New Mexico's amateur radio community.

A group picture from Friday's meeting is attached.

For more information about TARA, visit <http://infohost.nmt.edu/~tara/>.

FYI, Skyler will be a posterboard/demo presenter at our New Mexico TechFest on the 25th of this month.

73,
Brian N5ZGT



Nets

Weekly Socorro ARES net at 19:30 hrs local Wednesdays on the SARA Repeater [146.68 (-)]

Weekly Tri-County ARES net at 19:30 hrs local Thursdays on the URFMSI system. All ARES stations are encouraged to participate, and non-ARES stations are welcome to check in. The Capilla Peak repeater is operating from a shortened tower and most will not be able to reach it from Socorro. NM5CL will ask for check-ins on the SARA 146.68 repeater.

The New Mexico D-STAR net takes place on Thursdays beginning at 20:00 hrs local on REF055A (W5MPZ and W5AQA should automatically tie into it). Hams from across New Mexico, Colorado, and El Paso have joined in from their local repeaters or DV Dongles for a lively roundtable discussion on a variety of D-STAR and other topics.

The Socorro County ARES Group meets on the first Sunday of each month in the Socorro County EOC, 198 Neel Ave. for the NM Section ARES & RACES HF net. All stations are invited to check into the net (3,939 kHz) at 19:30 local. The net provides a forum for the discussion of Amateur Radio support of all types of emergency communications including MARS, SAR, CAP and public service events. The purpose of Socorro ARES participation is for training and to establish emergency procedures in compliance with our agreement with Socorro County.

The "Gatherings" section looks like this:

There is a reasonable chance that you might encounter SARA members at the following venues:

Burger King: Coffee every Saturday ~8:00 to 9:30 hrs at Burger King.

Capitol Bar on the Plaza - Weenie Wednesdays (on the patio in good weather) beginning in late afternoon.

Submissions to SARA News

Contributions and photos related to SARA and amateur radio are solicited for inclusion in *SARA News*. Text should be on the order of 200 to 300 words. Each month ham related ads to buy, sell or trade may be included. Material will be included on a space available and pretty much at the discretion of the editor. To be assured of consideration for the next newsletter, material must be received by the 25th day of the month. We would prefer to have submissions in digital form with text in the form of an MS Word doc, ascii file, or as text in an email message.

As the new newsletter editor, I welcome all comments and suggestions. Send email to sara_news@socorroara.org
Henry Newton, KC5WYA

Join/Renew Your SARA Membership

Are you a member? When does your membership expire? A list of SARA members is available online at socorroara.org/members.html. The list is updated - usually on a monthly basis.

If you do not receive your newsletter by email you might check the membership list on the SARA web page and then contact secretary@socorroara.org.

If you are a member seeking to renew or a ham new to the Socorro area, joining SARA is easy and inexpensive. Download a membership application (from socorroara.org/SARAFrm.pdf) and send it with a check for \$10 (\$15 for family memberships) to:

Socorro Amateur Radio Association
722 N. California St.
Socorro, NM 87801

or drop by the Socorro Radio Shack and say that you would like to join.